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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/087,728 02/28/2002 Evan D.H. Green NUFO021CON 7513

24353 7590 09/03/2002

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
200 MIDDLEFIELD RD
SUITE 200
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

EXAMINER

JACKSON, CORNELIUS H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,728

Applicant(s)

GREEN ET AL. 

Examiner

Cornelius H. Jackson

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.


- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2828

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. This application discloses and claims only subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 09/626,526, filed 27 July 2000, and names an inventor or inventors named in the prior application. Accordingly, this application constitutes a continuation and obtains the benefit of the filing date of the prior application, attention is directed to 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the logic must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2828

5. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: front and rear facet, gain medium/laser amplifier, and lens. Claims 2-28 are rejected for depending on an indefinite base claim.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationship between the grid generator and the channel selector is unknown. Claims 2-28 are rejected for depending on an indefinite base claim.

8. Claim 1 fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention since the recitation that an element is "suitable for" performing a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchison, 69 USPQ 138. Claims 2-28 are rejected for depending on an indefinite base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in–

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Avrutsky et al. (6141370). Avrutsky et al. teach a tunable

filter apparatus **Fig. 7**, comprising a grid

generator **72** positioned in an optical path

and configured to generate a first set of

transmission peaks corresponding to

channels of a selected wavelength grid, **see**

col. 7, lines 36-39 and Fig 8A; and a channel selector **74** positioned in the optical path

and configured to generate a second set of transmission peaks, **see col. 7, lines 39-40**

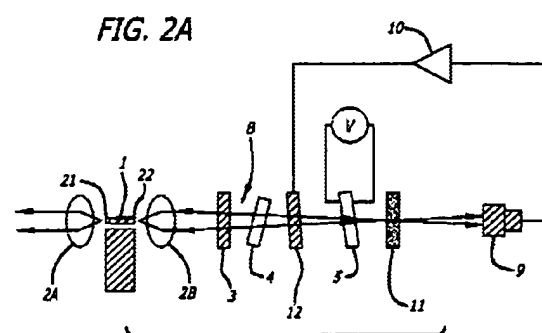
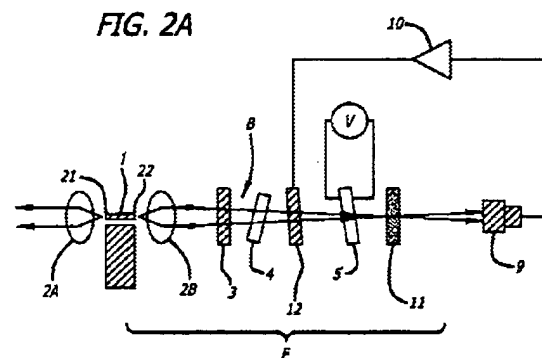
and Fig. 8B.

11. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 15 and 22-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Sesko et al. (6205159). Sesko

et al. teach a tunable filter apparatus **Fig. 2A**,

comprising a grid generator **4** positioned in



Art Unit: 2828

an optical path and configured to generate a first set of transmission peaks corresponding to channels of a selected wavelength grid, **see col. 11, lines 46-49**; and a channel selector **5** positioned in the optical path and configured to generate a second set of transmission peaks, **see col. 11, lines 52-58 and col. 12, lines 3-35 and 46-48**.

Regarding claims 2, 11-12 and 22-24, see claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 3, Sesko et al. teach the stated limitation, **see col. 12, lines 46-53**.

Regarding claim 4, Sesko et al. teach a Fabry-Perot filter, **see col. 15, line 40** and an interference element, **see col. 11, lines 56-58**.

Regarding claim 5, Sesko et al. teach the stated limitation, **see col. 11, lines 35-51**.

Regarding claim 6, Sesko et al. teach the stated limitation, **see col. 12, lines 38-45**.

Regarding claim 7, Sesko et al. teach an interference element, **see col. 16, lines 2-21**.

Regarding claims 9-10 and 15, Sesko et al. teach the stated limitations, **see col. 11, lines 63-67 and col. 13, lines 11-12**.

Regarding claims 25-28, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Art Unit: 2828

Regarding claims 29-32, the method of a device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself, since the device itself obviously uses the method. Therefore the rejection used on the device applies also to the method of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 8, 13-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sesko et al. (6205159). Sesko et al., as applied to claims 1-7, 9-12, 15 and 22-28 above, teach all the stated limitations except for all the different types of varies elements (alternative elements which perform the same function). Examples being, Sesko et al. teaches a thermal actuator, instead of a mechanical actuator. Also Sesko et al. teaches a solid etalon, instead of a gas etalon. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to any element type that performs the same function, since applicant has not disclosed that any of the alternative elements solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the elements taught by Sesko et al.


Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cornelius H. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00, Monday - Friday.

Art Unit: 2828

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.


chj
August 26, 2002


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